

NOT VOTING—23

Akin	DeMint	Mollohan
Bereuter	Deutsch	Oxley
Berman	Gephardt	Pickering
Blunt	Gingrey	Reyes
Carson (IN)	Hastings (FL)	Schrock
Collins	Hinojosa	Tauzin
Crane	Hunter	Turner (TX)
DeLay	McInnis	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1454

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 279, Previous Question on the Rule; rollcall vote 280, Adoption of the Rule for Defense Appropriations (H. Res. 683); rollcall vote 281, Honoring Ray Charles (H. Con. Res. 449); and rollcall vote 282, Recognizing Blues Music (H. Con. Res. 13).

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" for rollcall votes 279, 280, 281, and 282.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION 685, REVISING THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005 AS IT APPLIES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider in the House House Resolution 685; that the resolution be considered as read for amendment; and that the previous question be considered as ordered on the resolution to final adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 90 minutes of debate on the resolution equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and minority leader, or their designees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, but I simply wanted to make this reservation in order to express my agreement with the motion that is being offered by the gentleman, to say that what this means is that for the first time in 4 years, the minority would have an opportunity to state its first preferences with respect to budget priorities, and having been given that consideration, that should facilitate the handling of the remaining appropriation bills.

We are in the minority. We recognize that. We expect that the majority is going to win these votes. But we feel that we at least have a right to have our first preferences voted upon in a nonprocedural way. And when that happens, it is much easier to facilitate an orderly consideration of the appropriation bills, even though we may differ on the substance.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that this procedure is fair. We will have differences when we come to a vote on the procedure and on the resolution, but it is a fair procedure; and I believe that it will, in a constructive way, expedite the business of the House, especially as it relates to budgetary and appropriations issues.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, continuing under my reservation, it is my understanding that in accordance with this unanimous consent agreement, that this resolution is expected to be on the floor Thursday, and I think that will greatly facilitate the consideration of other matters.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill H.R. 4613, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 683 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4613.

□ 1455

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4613) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, with Mr. CAMP in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURTHA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my privilege today to present to the House the appropriations for National Defense for Fiscal Year 2005. This bill includes a total amount for the Defense Department of \$416.1 billion. Within that dollar amount, which is an enormous amount, there also is included approximately \$25 billion that is a part of a bridge fund amendment providing funds for operations in Iraq. This recognizes that the Congress may be in recess for an extended period of time, perhaps even adjourn for the year for a period of time, before we have another supplemental coming forward. That additional funding is to make certain that we do not have any of the funds that are very important in terms of meeting our world challenges today run short or run dry.

Indeed, this bill is a package that is designed to meet the country's need in this ever-shrinking and ever-complex world. It is a very, very important bill, that first and foremost is designed to support our troops wherever they may be deployed around the world. Most significantly, in doing that, we are providing the funding that is necessary to carry forward the current effort in Iraq and around Afghanistan as well.

I would like to outline just briefly what the bill does. It supports those operations in Iraq, as I have suggested; but it also supports our troops by making certain that funding is there for their housing, for their training needs, their clothing needs, et cetera. But above and beyond that, it provides for full funding for the 3.5 percent pay increase that is a part of the President's budget.

The bill further increases additional funding for readiness for our troops, providing for the training as well as the equipment of their efforts worldwide.

The bill provides a very significant level of funding for our intelligence efforts, including an increase beyond the President's original budget. Further than that, within the supplemental package that is here, there is a very significant addition to our Intelligence funding. The bill provides for funding for a number of very important assets across the board, including funding for the Virginia-class submarine, for example, funding for the Joint Strike Fighter, the F-22 fighter, et cetera.

This bill also includes language that is designed to improve or increase the reporting requirements that we provide